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Human Rights Council
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Eighth session
20–24 July 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

Addendum

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, the Human Rights Council applies the rules of procedure established for committees of the General Assembly, as applicable, unless subsequently otherwise decided by the Assembly or the Council (A/520/Rev.17). On the election of officers, rule 103 of the rules of procedure states that each committee should elect a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Expert Mechanism will have before it the provisional agenda of the eighth session (A/HRC/EMRIP/2015/1) and the annotations contained herein. The Expert Mechanism will adopt the agenda, including any revisions it might wish to make.

In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council decided that the Expert Mechanism should meet once annually, for three days in its first year and thereafter for up to five days, and that the sessions may be a combination of open and private meetings. For its eighth session, the Expert Mechanism will meet for five days, from 20 to 24 July 2015.

Rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that each committee should, at the beginning of the session, adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item. Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism will have before it for consideration and approval a draft timetable prepared by the secretariat showing the order and distribution of meeting times for each agenda item for the eighth session.

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3. Follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism

The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was held on 22 and 23 September 2014. In the outcome document of the meeting, the Assembly invited the Human Rights Council, taking into account the views of indigenous peoples, to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert Mechanism, with a view to modifying and improving it so that it can more effectively promote respect for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration (Assembly resolution 69/2, para. 28).

Under agenda item 3, the Expert Mechanism and observers will discuss follow-up to the World Conference, in particular in the context of paragraph 28 of the outcome document.

4. Panel discussion on indigenous peoples' human rights in relation to business enterprises

At its seventh session, the Expert Mechanism decided to hold, during its eighth session, a panel discussion on indigenous peoples' human rights in relation to business enterprises. The panel discussion will build on the previous work of the Expert Mechanism in this area, including its follow-up report on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making, with a focus on extractive industries (A/HRC/21/55).

5. Post-2015 development agenda and indigenous peoples' rights

At its seventh session, the Expert Mechanism decided to include in the provisional agenda of its eighth session a discussion on the post-2015 development agenda and indigenous peoples' rights.

Given that the summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda is scheduled to be held in September 2015, under agenda item 5 the Expert Mechanism and observers will discuss how indigenous peoples' rights can be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda.

6. Follow-up to thematic studies and advice

At its eighteenth session, the Human Rights Council welcomed the practice adopted by the Expert Mechanism of devoting specific time to the discussion of updates relevant to past mandated thematic studies of the Expert Mechanism, recommended that the Expert Mechanism should adopt this practice on a permanent basis and encouraged States to continue to participate in and contribute to these discussions (Council resolution 18/8, para. 5).

Under agenda item 6, the Expert Mechanism will consider follow-up to its previous studies.

7. Study and advice on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage

At its twenty-seventh session, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to their cultural heritage, including through participation in political and public life, and to present it to the Council at its thirtieth session (Council resolution 27/13, para. 5).

Accordingly, the Expert Mechanism prepared a study on the issue (A/HRC/EMRIP/2015/2). To contribute to the study, and following the practice adopted for its previous studies, the Expert Mechanism sent out a call for submissions and examined the issue in greater detail at an expert seminar.

Under agenda item 7, the Expert Mechanism and observers will make comments and suggestions on the draft study. The Expert Mechanism will subsequently finalize the study and submit it to the Council at its thirtieth session.

8. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In its resolution 6/36, the Human Rights Council recalled that, at its sixty-first session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/295, had adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the report of the Expert Mechanism on its first session, the Declaration was unanimously seen as a vital instrument providing a normative framework to guide the work of the Expert Mechanism (see A/HRC/10/56, para. 23).

At its twenty-seventh session, the Human Rights Council requested the Expert Mechanism to continue to undertake, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the questionnaire survey to seek the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices regarding possible appropriate measures and implementation strategies in order to attain the end goals of the Declaration (Council resolution 27/13, para. 6). The results of the questionnaire survey have been compiled by the Expert Mechanism in a draft report.

Under agenda item 8, the Expert Mechanism will hold a general discussion on the Declaration, as well as a focused discussion on the use of the Declaration to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. It will also discuss the results of the questionnaire with a view to finalizing the draft report, which will then be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session.

9. Proposals to be submitted to the Human Rights Council for its consideration and approval

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/36, the Expert Mechanism may make proposals to the Council for its consideration and approval, within the scope of its work as set out by the Council. This may include proposals on how its thematic expertise could assist the Council in the implementation of its mandate and mechanisms.

10. Adoption of the report

The Expert Mechanism will adopt the report on its eighth session with a view to submitting it to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session.